

PROGRESSIVE FARMER

THE INDUSTRIAL AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF OUR PEOPLE PARAMOUNT TO ALL OTHER CONSIDERATIONS OF STATE POLICY.

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THE NATIONAL FARMERS' ALLIANCE AND INDUSTRIAL UNION.

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NOTES ON CURRENT EVENTS.

The *La Grange Spectator* thinks Col. Polk is a man of one idea. Well, it may be so. And if it is so, Col. Polk seems to have just one idea more than some people we could mention.

W. S. POWELL & Co., of Baltimore, Md., have published an attractive pamphlet of 34 pages, entitled A. B. C. of Agriculture, which they will send free of charge to any farmer who asks them for it.

It is understood that O'Brien and Parnell have cobbled up a compromise of the difficulties which have ruined the usefulness of the Irish parliamentary party, by which Parnell agrees to retire from the leadership, if Mr. Justin McCarthy will resign his claims to Parnell's old shoes.

We see, with pleasure, that a bill has been introduced into the General Assembly to lower the rate of interest in this State from eight to six per centum. We hope the bill will become a law, and we hope the lawmakers will attach such penalties to the measure as will secure the enforcement of the law after its enactment. Such a law as is proposed will be of little value unless it is enforced by proper penalties.

The legislature proposes to do something for the common schools by putting into the school fund one dollar a year for every dog in the State. This will work good in two ways. It will be the death of thousands of ignoble curs, and thus make sheep husbandry a more profitable business; and it will put some needed money into the school fund. If any one shall say that a farmers' legislature is not level headed, tell him he is mistaken.

There was an Alliance caucus or consultation held upon the eve of the sitting of the present General Assembly, from which the Republican members of the Alliance were excluded. This action, in our judgement, was wrong. We take the broad ground that every Allianceman, no matter what political party he belongs to, is

entitled to be present at, and take part in, any consultation of Alliancemen upon any question of public policy. We are glad to believe that the Republicans who are members of the Alliance in North Carolina are just as true men, and just as much entitled to the confidence of their brethren, as any other class whomsoever.

The Farmers' Alliance in North Carolina is happy in having able friends and helpers amongst the lawyers of the State, and it is indebted to its friends in the legal profession for eminent services rendered to its cause. But it is perhaps indebted to no one of these more deeply than to Col. Harry Skinner, of Pitt county. Col. Skinner has many of the qualifications for leadership. He is clear-headed, true sighted, brave and faithful to the people. We predict for this talented young North Carolinian a brilliant future in his county's service.

DR. R. L. ABERNETHY, President of Rutherford College, is anxious to secure funds to rebuild his institution of learning. Our readers will remember that the College buildings, apparatus, &c., were recently destroyed by fire. Dr. Abernethy is a member of the Alliance, and he wants every one of his brethren to send him a contribution for his work. THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER has called the attention of its readers to this matter once before, but it cheerfully repeats its suggestion, that a little help just now would be of great service to this veteran educator.

The *New York Herald* has been trying for some time past to get the Legislature of the Empire State to elect Mr. Charles A. Dana, editor of *The Sun*, to the Senate of the United States. The *Herald* has been trying to get Governor Hill to declare in favor of Mr. Dana for the Senate. But so far the Governor is as mum as an oyster. In fact, it looks as if the editor of the *Herald* was the only man in the country, excepting Mr. Dana himself, who is at all enthusiastic over the elevation of the Nestor of the *Sun* to the Senate. We admire the courage of the *Herald*, but we cannot say as much for its judgement.

It is said the University will ask the Legislature for an extra appropriation, in order that that excellent institution may be able to give free tuition to the young men of the State. There has been much said about the advantages of free tuition, and it looks liberal and appears to be wonderfully helpful to bestow the benefits of free tuition upon poor young men. But after all there is much more of promise than of performance in any plan of free tuition at the University. For unless charges for tuition at the University are much higher than at other schools of like grade, they are a very small part of the expenses of a young man's residence there. It would not help poor young men much in their efforts to obtain an education at the University to give them free tuition, without lessening the other expenses. Free tuition would be some help; but not much. Besides, we think the Legislature ought to turn its attention to helping the thousands and tens of thousands of poor children in the State who can never go to the University, and who are dependent upon the common schools for all the education they will ever get. The University can wait for the means to make tuition free for the sons of the more fortunate people of the State until some respectable provision has been made for the primary education of the children of the poor. It will be no answer to say to this, that we are opposed to the University; for such a statement would be untrue. We are in favor of giving a good common school education to every child in this State; and such a policy as we advocate, will give to the University the largest possible number of students, the wisest usefulness and the largest revenues it can ever have.

ALLIANCE CORRESPONDENCE.

GRANTVILLE, N. C., Dec. 17, '90.

MR. EDITOR:—While the Alliance, State and National, are publishing their legislative demands, it seems to me one important demand is being overlooked, and that is the present county government system, whereby the people (the farmers) are deprived of choosing the men that lay their tax, control their roads and schools. Now will the Alliance, in the next legislature of North Carolina, look to these small things, as some would call them? I believe in the Alliance order and think we should correct or endeavor to so shape legislation so as to give the people an opportunity to act directly in the government of State and county matters as well as national matters. Yours fraternally,
S. O. DEEVER,
Lecturer Mars Hill Alliance.

This is to certify that in the late election in which our worthy brother, J. M. Mewborne, was the Democratic candidate for Congress in the second congressional district, was, by a few prejudiced and ill-guided men, badly misrepresented. Both his political principles and his ability to perform the duties incumbent upon a Congressman have been often and continually attacked. Now, in behalf of this noble man, the undersigned would speak to the public abroad some words of truth, and in so doing we feel sure that we utter the sentiments of the people who know him. We have known this worthy gentleman for more than twenty years, and most of us have known him from his very cradle; and we can, and do hereby testify that he is fully competent to serve the people in this high capacity, and further that we have never known nor heard of, except by this same few, a low or ungentlemanly act to proceed from him. He has every outward appearance of a Christian gentleman, and if a tree is known by its fruits, he must possess the extraordinary qualities of a thorough Christian. His moral character is without a blemish. His political character is purely and wholly of the Jeffersonian type. And although this envious few are yet continuing their outrageous attacks upon him, to the great disgust of his many warm friends, we yet hope and expectantly believe that the day is not far distant when J. M. Mewborne will truly represent the people of the second congressional district.

This committee appointed by Charity Alliance to set forth these facts, asks THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER to publish the same.

G. W. MEWBORNE, Chm.
N. J. ALLEN,
B. F. DIXON,
L. BIRD,
F. DAIL.

Adopted by Charity Alliance, Dec. 27th, 1890.

HAYWOOD, Haywood Co., N. C.

MR. EDITOR:—I am not used to writing letters, and I don't know hardly how to start this one. I am in a heap of trouble, though, and I want you to tell me what I must do. I have talked to my neighbors and they can't tell me. You must excuse me for writing a long letter, for I want to tell you all about it, so you can give me some advice on the subject. One of my friends, Mr. Bondholder, came over to our house on one occasion some years ago, and after talking about the crops and praising Mrs. Seele's coffee and cakes and telling her how pretty the children were and chatting about this and that, he got up to go home. Just as he took hold of the door he stopped and turned around. Says he: "Mr. Seele, don't you want to go in with me and buy a horse? I know," says he, "where we can get a real nice one mighty low down." Says I, "no, neighbor Bondholders, I don't believe

I do. I've got team enough to do my work." Well then he goes to work and tells how this horse looks in harness and what a fine driver he was and that if I could see him cavorting around I would be sure to like him. Then says he (and he took a seat) "neighbor Seele, at your time of life you ought to commence to enjoy yourself some. It is a shame for you to let Mrs. Seele and these fine, interesting children languish for the want of exercise and enjoyment." Mrs. Seele glanced at me and I saw I had to give in. Well we buy the horse, and as I didn't have a buggy and a plenty of other team, I told Mr. Bondholder he could take him home with him. Says he, "Mr. Seele, you think a heap of Zeb. Vance and so do I, let us name our horse Zeb. Vance." I was very glad he said that, for I was thinking of the same thing, so I said very well, and we called him Zeb. Vance. Well, every once in a while I had to go to town to get some coffee or something, and I was very apt to see Mr. Bondholder with his friend Mr. National Bank out driving Zeb. Vance. Well, Mr. Editor, it was a pretty sight, I can tell you. Zeb. Vance was rigged up with gold-mounted harness and a nice silk sash around him. He would lay his tail over on the right side and let it lay there awhile, then he would lay it over on the left and let it lay there; he would gracefully shy from this object on the left and that object on the right. The town-band was playing a tune on one occasion, called "The gold bugs are coming," and, Mr. Editor, that horse actually kept time trotting on them streets to that tune. Well, I can tell you I was very proud of that horse, and I would stand around and call the boys' attention to our horse, and I told them what he could do and praised him so much they got to thinking as much of Zeb. Vance as Mr. B. or I.

This went on for a long time, but I could never find time to take Mrs. Seele or the children out to ride. The fact is, we got poorer and poorer all the time, and didn't even think of pleasure. Well, last week I lost one of work horses, and I thought to myself it was a good thing I went in with Mr. Bondholder to buy that horse. I went to see him about getting Zeb. Vance to plow. He said it was all right I could take him along. He was smiling all that time to himself, and said he would go with me and see how Zeb. died. I put a good pair of black harness and iron traces on him. Zeb. looked like he was thunderstruck. He was right sullen but I got him before the plow right smart easy. I threw my rope bridle over his head and went to the plow to start him off. Now, Mr. Editor, what do you think? Zeb. Vance wouldn't move an inch. I tried to coax him but that wouldn't do. I tried scolding and that didn't do any good. Mr. Bondholder smiled worse than ever, and at this I got mighty mad, for I had been sending lots of my best hay, oats and corn to feed Zeb. on all the time. Mr. Bondholder had been driving him. I jerked the lines smartly and gave Zeb. a cut. Well sir, with that he commenced to kick. I jerked out my knife and was going to cut his throat, but Mr. Bondholder caught hold of me and told me it was unlawful, it was unconstitutional, it was injustice to undertake to make Zeb. work with that kind of gear. Well I stood and looked at the man and then at the horse. The horse looked at Mr. Bondholder. After awhile Mr. B. says to me: "Let me take the horse home again and maybe the next time you will have a different kind of gear and work for him. I let him go, but I ain't satisfied. The town folks are all down on me, and the newspapers almost everywhere are abusing me for trying to kill Zeb. Now, Mr. Editor, come to my assistance. Tell me what to do with that horse, and I will be everlastingly yours.

H. A. SEELE.

WADE, N. C., Jan. 1, 1891.

MR. EDITOR:—Permit me a small space in your valuable paper for a few lines for No. 129. We are very quiet down here, but are moving steadily along. We are a unit on the Sub Treasury bill and plan, also every other Alliance principle, and we expect the Legislature of North Carolina, during its session, to do the necessary work to secure the national legislation we need.

In compliance with the recommendation of the State Alliance, all necessary preparations were made here to observe January 1st as a thanksgiving day. Notwithstanding the morning of the day being rainy, at 11 a. m. at McMillan's Chapel there had assembled about four hundred people, composed of Wades, Gaddies and several brothers and sisters of Godwins, South River and other neighboring Alliances, also several friends among them. The service began with the singing of appropriate hymns and prayer. Bro. David Aury, one of our county lecturers, who had been invited to address the people on the occasion, was present and addressed us in a happy and entertaining speech, then after the singing of a hymn, recess for dinner was announced after which the people retired to a table 165 feet long on the grounds which was completely filled with everything that could be desired to make up a wholesome dinner. After all had eaten and were filled, there were more than twelve baskets of fragments taken up.

At 1:30 o'clock p. m. the crowd reassembled in the house and were pleasantly entertained by speeches from Bros. D. W. Williams and Riley Brown, of Sampson county. The services were then closed by singing and prayer.

We never spent a day more pleasantly in our life, and it is hoped that much good was accomplished. I could describe several other pleasant things of the occasion of worth, but as my letter is already too long, I will close, with many good wishes for THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER and its patrons.
J. C. B., Cor. Sec'y.

SWEPSONVILLE, N. C., Dec. 15, '90.

MR. EDITOR:—I wonder what the farmers are doing these long winter evenings now that "crops are over," as Bill Nye says. We have had an other bounteous crop of corn, cotton and tobacco, and if wheat was a failure we have no cause to complain. Some of our people thought the millennium was not far off when the election return came in, but I don't think it will be along for several years yet, and I am glad it won't, because we ain't quite ready for it yet.

Some people have a mistaken idea about the Alliance. They think it is solely to enable them to buy goods at reduced prices to save 10 cents on every dollar they spend. Of course that is all very good and even necessary, because a dollar saved is a dollar made. But that is not the object of the Alliance, or at least not the great object. Its aim is to improve the man, to help him to farm better, to give him higher and broader views, and to lift him up on higher places out of the clods where he has been so continually groveling for so long. If you will look about you, my brother farmers, you will find more things needed to make you a successful farmer than cheap soda and molasses. I was traveling one of the most public roads in this county some weeks ago, and I passed an orchard that reminded me of a piece of poetry I learned when I was a little boy:

"I passed by his garden and saw the wild brier;
The thorns and the thistles grow broader and higher."

Only it was sassafras sprouts instead of thistles, and the sprouts looked far better than the fruit trees, and that man, I am sorry to say, was a member of my own Alliance.

Now that brother don't need cheap soda and molasses; they would not do much good in his case. He needs the discipline applied in the form of some good agricultural newspaper.

Some people sneer at what they call "book farming," but a little book farming mixed with experience, industry and good common sense, would be an advantage to the most of us. I am sure it would be a good thing for that orchard.

And now as the Alliance has some representatives in our legislature, I want to make some suggestions:

First, let me remind them that North Carolina pays less per head than any State in the Union save one for public school purposes. I think we have borne this disgrace long enough. We as a State can well afford to double our taxes for education. I hope to live to see the day when all the higher branches will be taught in our public schools; when there will be a sufficiency of money to carry them on at least six months in the year, so that the generations to come will prove that the old North State can produce something more than turpentine and—"pools."

Talk about bringing the farmer up in his ignorance and bettering his condition, until he is better educated. If he was up he could not stay.

Solomon said: "Wisdom is wealth and knowledge is power," so that the wise and intelligent of this or any other country will always be the wealthy and the powerful. And both of these carry in them seven (other things being equal) the elements of perpetuation.

And there is another old and time-honored relic of barbarism that ought to be abolished. The Constitution entitles parents to the service and control of their sons until they are twenty-one years old, and holds them responsible for their debts, etc.; and then the laws of North Carolina comes in and disarms the parents on certain days, and says that boy (if he be a country boy) shall work a given number of days on public roads after he is 18; so that if a man has as many sons as old father Jacob had he is cheated out of thirty six years of his time. I ask in the name of justice and all common sense, is it right? And when you come to think this only applies to country boys, I ask is it equal rights?

Now with the kindest of feeling for the town boys, I ask what great or good things have they done that entitles them to these special favors? They pay no town tax, so all they have done is come to town. We are heard saying, "keep the boys on the farm, give them inducements and go on and tell them that Washington, Garfield and most, all great men of all ages were farmers' boys," and then in the face of all this make them pay a fine in the shape of so many days work on public roads.

Alamance county has as many as five incorporated towns, ranging from 250 to 2500 inhabitants; all these towns have their share of eighteen-year old boys that are getting advantage over the country boys.

Now I want it understood that I don't want the town boy brought out and made to work on public roads, but let all be treated alike—except the country boy. I believe the time is close at hand when all our roads will be worked by taxation—the sooner the better.

The two most repulsive things in the lives of most boys is turning the grindstone and working public roads; and the only way he can escape either is to move to some incorporated town. There he soon learns to smoke, chew and curse, and look on the poor country boy with the most profound pity, and congratulates himself that he is not like other boys—(country boys.)

Now, my brother farmers, let us ask the legislature to provide more money for public schools, to repeal the act that requires eighteen-year old boys to perform road duty, and let us put a treadle to our grindstones and see how much more happy and contented our boys will be and how much less ready they will be to leave the peaceful country home for the pleasures and temptations of town and city life.
H. M. CARTER, Cor. Sec'y.